# check-cashing privileges

AUSTIN (AP) - In the wake of disclosures that some state lawmakers wrote bad checks without penalties, the Texas Treasury said Monday it plans to stop providing check-cashing services for legisla-

Instead, State Treasurer Kay Bailey Hutchison said arrangements have been made with Texas Commerce Bank-Austin for it to cash the personal checks of state lawmakers and statewide elected

Details of the service are being determined and will be outlined in a letter to officeholders in the

'For all intents and purposes, the Treasury will no longer be providing the service," said Mark Toohey, a spokesman for Hutchi-

However, he added that if a lawmaker was in town and hadn't heard about the Treasury's decision, "I'm sure we would cash their personal check" until the new service is up and running.

Toohey has said that the Treasury's check-cashing perk dates at least to 1980. Hutchison was elected in 1990.

SeeTreasury/Page 11

# Treasury refuses legislators Media industries battle over market

newspaper industry shouldn't be reluctant to lobby Congress for legislation governing where Bell telephone companies may enter the electronic information field, a Texas congressman said Monday.

"The telephone companies are ubiquitous," U.S. Rep. John Bryant, D-Dallas, told newspaper industry leaders. "It is necessary for you to pipe up and explain what the bill does."

Bryant spoke at the Texas Daily Newspaper Association annual

Bryant is co-sponsoring a bill that would prevent the seven re-

The Bell companies would be permitted to enter the field in markets outside of their phone

gional Bell operating companies

from entering the information ser-

vices industry in their own mar-

kets unless competition for phone

service areas. 'You cannot compete successfully against someone who

doesn't play by the same rules," said Cathleen Black, president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. "We welcome the Bells just as soon as they have real competition for telephone ser-

nies could offer data services, sports information and classified ads. About 400 newspapers nationwide currently are involved in the electronic information field,

The Bell companies, which were prevented from entering the field after the breakup of American Telephone and Telegraph in 1984, claim the ban kept innovative services from consumers.

Last year a federal judge ruled the telephone companies could enter the electronic information field. Now, the so-called Cooper bill in Congress attempts to undo

Bryant said the bill only vents the Bell companies from tering a small segment of the

ketplace.
"So don't put up with telephone company executi the local civic meeting tellin eryone around him that th being prevented from getting volved in providing inform services to Americans ... be it simply isn't true," the con man said.

Black said so far the teler companies have spent \$21 m on a lobbying effort to block Cooper bill.

# Ethics law discloses partnerships between legislators, lobbyists

required by the state's new ethics law show that several legislators and lobbyists are business partners, and some lawyerlawmakers have made thousands of dollars practicing before state agencies

The reports, for business conducted in 1991, underscore a debate between part-time legislators trying to make a living and government watchdogs looking

for conflicts of interest You must either be super rich or you get in the real world and make a living," Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, told the Austin American-Statesman. We'd be far better off with a full-time Legislature and pro-hibit any outside employment."

Legislators are paid \$7,200 a year, plus \$85 a day when in Austin for legislative sessions and, with limits, for legislative business between sessions.

According to a report by the

AUSTIN (AP) - Disclosures ness ventures between legislators and lobbyists run the

> - Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, is a House speaker candidate and was a co-author of last year's ethics legislation. He owns a 300-acre farm and vineyard in West Texas with three business lobbyists - Galt Graydon, Barry Miller and Bradley Bryan. All said the venture does not affect their political relation-

> Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, has invested in land and several oil and gas ventures with former legislators who now are full-time lobbyists: for-mer Sen. Ed Howard and former Reps. Hilary Doran and Nub Donaldson. Craddick said the investments were made when the three were in the Legisla-

The newspaper also reported American-Statesman, the busi- that Austin lobbyist Kraege Polan got a loan on his house from Craddick.

'I got better financing with him than I could through a bank," said Polan, who also said that Craddick deals with legislative issues on merit.

Craddick calls the loan simply an investment, which Polan paid off in January.

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, who bought a South Texas radio station with lobbyist Pat Nugent a decade ago when Ellis was a congressional aide, said he could not even remember what city it is located in. He said it has not affected his approach to Nugent's legislative

On another front, several lawyers in the Legislature reported receiving hefty fees to appear before state agencies for their clients, the newspaper re-

## Perot flirts with runnin for presiden

impact of candida

with a third-party campaign president is making political erans in both parties nervous alysts say a well-financed recampaign could change the namics of a close general-elect contest.

President Bush's re-elec campaign is suggesting Per potential challenge would have the Democrats more than president.

some fun" in considering ad lenge to his fellow Texan. But, said, "it doesn't make any dil ence to us one way or the oth

votes away from Clinton, d Perot's support for abortions and gun control. Other Busha were more wary.

You have to take serio anybody who's got \$2 billion wants to run for president," Bush senior campaign adv

damage to the GOP.

'My judgment is his candida will debilitate George Bush, whurt him very badly and

Perot said last week th would run for president if porters put his name on their in all 50 states. He said he will spend up to \$100 million of own money if he were to w

such a campaign.

Whether Perot would in more votes from Bush or Clinton is a hard question in the control of t unpredictable presidential sex

analysts suggest.
"It seems that at first blush would hurt the Republicans more than the Democratic side said Bruce Buchanan, a politi science professor at the Univ of Texas. "But if you look dee into the situation, he's going appeal to the same kind of dis

Still, Buchanan says, Permight hamper the Republic slightly more than the Demoo because he attacks the Repui

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# Court to review sacrifice ban

# Justices will rule on church rituals in 1993

WASHINGTON (AP) — The drug case to decide whether crimi-Supreme Court agreed Monday to nal defendants must be tried separeview communities' power to ban the sacrificial killing of animals at church rituals, a case that could yield important new guidelines on religious freedom.

Although the Florida case involves a church practicing an un-derground religion, the court's decision — expected sometime in 1993 — could carry significance for mainline religious denominations as well.

In other matters, the court: Said it will decide in a Virginia case whether thousands of taxpayers may claim deductions for in-home offices even if they spend the majority of their time working elsewhere.

Refused to revive a lawsuit in which the publishers of Penthouse alleged that former Attorney General Edwin Meese and others unlawfully intimidated stores to keep them from selling the sexually oriented magazine.

- Agreed to use an Illinois

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Court at 7:00 PM.

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nal defendants must be tried separately if they plead not guilty and, in effect, point the finger of guilt

at co-defendants.

- Turned down the appeal of a Florida sheriff ordered to pay \$22,710.14 to a newspaper from which he pulled his department's legal advertising after the paper

ran an article criticizing him. Let stand a ruling in a Missouri case that said prison guards who harass inmates may violate the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment even if no physical force is used.

Left intact a \$400,000 award te Midler won against an advertising agency that used a "sound-alike" singer for a televi-

sion commercial five years ago. In the animal-sacrifice case, the Miami suburb of Hialeah passed ordinances in 1987 to restrict the killing of animals after the Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye leased an abandoned car lot and prepared to open a Santeria church.

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Santeria is an ancient African religion carried to Cuba by slaves and then to the United States in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The sacrifice of animals

chickens, pigeons, doves, ducks, goats, sheep and turtles - is an integral part of the rituals and ceremonies conducted by practitioners of Santeria.

U.S. District Judge Eugene Spellman of Miami, although not citing his statistical source, esti-mated in 1989 that as many as 60,000 practitioners of Santeria live in South Florida live in South Florida. The judge upheld the ordinances noting they "are not religiously neutral." The ordinances regulate conduct rather than inter-

fere with beliefs, he ruled. In 1990, the Supreme Court ruled that states may outlaw the religious use of the illegal drug peyote. That decision said people's religious beliefs do not excuse them from having to comply with a "neutral and generally applicable" law.

Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. - Rudder Theatre "Works by American Women Composers" Wednesday - 12:30 p.m. - Rudder Exhibit Hall

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WASHINGTON (AP) – Te billionaire Ross Perot's flirtai

Campaign spokeswoman To Clarke said Perot "may be hav

whether he gets in.
She predicted Perot would

Charles Black Democratic party Chairm Ronald Brown saw Perot doi

therefore help us elect a Der president," Brown said.

fected voters that both le Brown and Pat Buchanan are.

cans' conservative base.' See Politicians/Page